

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00520 041752Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-02 SY-05 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2114

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0520

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, IT
SUBJECT: SERIOUS TERRORIST ATTACK ON CITY POLICE POST
IN BOLOGNA

1. A GROUP OF FIVE OR SIX TERRORISTS CALLING THEMSELVES
QUOTE PROLETARIAN ARMED SQUADS UNQUOTE ATTACKED CENTRALLY
LOCATED BOLOGNA CITY POLICE POST ON AUGUST 2. THE
TERRORISTS DISARMED THREE POLICEMEN COLLECTING THREE
AUTOMATIC GUNS AND SUCCEEDED IN ESCAPING THROUGH LARGE
ANTI-TERRORISM AND POLICE FORCES WHICH HAD RAPIDLY
INTERVENED. DURING THEIR ESCAPE THROUGH THE BOLOGNA
UNIVERSITY QUARTER WHERE THE CITY POLICE POST IS LOCATED,
THEY ALSO SHOT AT, BUT MISSED BY INCHES, AN UNARMED CITY
POLICEMAN WHO WAS TRYING TO FOLLOW THEM.

2. LOCAL NEWSPAPER "IL RESTO DEL CARLINO" REPORTS THAT
DURING THEIR ATTACK THE TERRORISTS SAID TO THE POLICEMEN
QUOTE WE HAVE NOTHING AGAINST YOU BUT AGAINST THOSE WHO
MAKE YOU DO YOUR JOB UNQUOTE. THE ARTICLE EXPLAINS THAT
THE TERRORISTS HAD SAID TO THESE POLICEMEN THAT THEY
CONSIDER THE BOLOGNA POLICE TO BE THE QUOTE ARMED RIGHTHAND
OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY UNQUOTE.

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3. ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF
TRADE UNIONS CONDEMNED THE TERRORIST ATTACK AND EXPRESSED
THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE CITY POLICE. BOLOGNA MAYOR
RENATO ZANGHERI (PCI) AND PRESIDENT OF EMILIA-ROMAGNA
LANFRANCO TURCI (PCI) SENT TELEGRAMS OF SUPPORT TO THE
CHIEF OF BOLOGNA POLICE.

4. 4. IN THIS CASE THE TERRORISTS WERE PARTICULARLY LUCKY, BECAUSE DURING THEIR ESCAPE THEY RAN THROUGH THE GARDEN OF A PRIVATE HOUSE WHERE TWO FEROCIOUS DOGS ARE USUALLY LEFT FREE, BUT FOUND THEM SECURELY TIED ON THIS DAY.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS FAR FROM THE FIRST VIOLENCE BY LEFTIST YOUTHS IN BOLOGNA. HOWEVER, BOLOGNESE REMAIN UNACCUSTOMED TO THE GROWING POLITICAL VIOLENCE. THIS IS THE FIRST ARMED PERSONAL ATTACK ON A POLICE POST WHICH HAS BEEN EXPRESSEDLY AND EXPLICITLY ANTI-COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI). IT ALSO STANDS IN CONTRAST TO THE USUAL BLOODLETTING OF THE BRIGATE ROSSE. GIVEN THE FACT THAT THIS GROUP HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL THE POLICEMEN INVOLVED BUT SPECIFICALLY DECLINED TO DO SO WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT THEY REGARD THE PCI AS THEIR ENEMY, COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT THEY CAME APPARENTLY SPECIFICALLY TO STEAL AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS RAID WAS INTENDED TO SERVE AS NOTICE TO THE PCI THAT ARMED ATTACKS UOPON PCI OFFICIALS ARE TO BE EXPECTED.
GORDON

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Message Attributes

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